



**STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY
www.abc.state.ny.us**

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**EMERGENCY SUSPENSIONS ORDERED FOR WATERTOWN BARS
Fights, Assaults, and Unlicensed Security Guards Trigger License Suspension**

Watertown, NY – The New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) summarily suspended licenses held by M & C Fusco Inc. at two adjoining establishments on Factory Street in Watertown. The suspensions for the Thunderdome and Mick’s Place were ordered at a Meeting of the Full Board on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 by the Members of the State Liquor Authority: Chairman Dennis Rosen, Commissioner Jeanique Greene, and Commissioner Noreen Healey.

The license suspensions follow a joint investigation by the Watertown Police Department (WPD) and State Liquor Authority (SLA). These establishments have become a constant source of complaints and the WPD has responded over 40 times to these establishments since January, 2011. This continuing dangerous situation has resulted in numerous arrests and has become a draining on WPD’s resources.

There are 33 disciplinary charges currently pending against the licensee for violations at these two bars. The charges include employing of a felon, allowing the establishments to become disorderly, failing to provide adequate supervision and employing security staff that was not properly registered and trained. WPD has received reports that this untrained security staff has been responsible for assaulting the patrons they were supposedly hired to protect.

“The Members of the Authority took swift action yesterday ordering emergency summary suspensions against the Thunderdome and Mick’s Place,” said SLA Director of Enforcement Pamela Westlake. “The SLA will continue working with the Watertown Police and our partners in law enforcement across the state to hold licensees accountable.”

Based on these serious violations past and present, the Members of the SLA determined that the licensee's disregard for the law posed an imminent threat to the public and voted unanimously for the emergency suspensions. Effective immediately, no alcoholic beverages may be served or consumed at these establishments.

The State Administrative Procedure Act authorizes a state agency to summarily suspend a license when the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatives require emergency action. When the SLA summarily suspends a liquor license, it also serves upon the licensee a 'Notice of Pleading' alleging one or more disciplinary violations. In invoking a summary suspension, the SLA has deemed the violation(s), considering each licensee's disciplinary history, to be sufficiently serious upon initial review to warrant an immediate suspension. The SLA's decision to summarily suspend a license is not a final determination on the merits of the case. The licensee is entitled to an expedited hearing before an administrative law judge to address the alleged violation(s) that led to the suspension. An order of summary suspension remains in effect until such time as it is modified by the State Liquor Authority or reviewing court.

The State Liquor Authority regulates and controls the manufacture, sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages within the state. The Authority works with local law enforcement agencies and localities across the state to ensure compliance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law. In addition, the Authority issues and renews licenses and permits to manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers of alcoholic beverages.

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